

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In response to the 6 March 2008 restriction requirement under 35 USC § 121, applicant confirms that claim 1 is generic to all article claims, and elects the specie corresponding to Fig. 13, with traverse. Claim 21 provides the basis for the additional limitation to generic claim 1, namely, a first flange fixedly attached to the element and contacting one of at least some of the plurality of peaks, at least some of the plurality of troughs, or at least one of the lateral perimeter surfaces, and best corresponds to Fig. 13. Claims reading on the provisionally elected specie are submitted as claim 35 in addition to generic claim 1 and independent claim 21.

The Examiner has identified numerous alleged species of the generic article of manufacture recited in claim 1, for example. Of all the non-exhaustive embodiments of the invention shown in the several figures, the Examiner has failed to identify as patentably distinct specie those embodiments wherein a flange member is associated with the ribbon. Applicant submits that the Examiner's failure to identify Fig. 13 as representative of a specie for the same reasons as advanced with respect to the other Figures establishes an impermissible inconsistency. While claim 21 is presently drawn to this combination, applicant has elected to introduce new claim 35, which is directed to this structure but depends directly from claim 1. The listing of claims reading upon this combination takes the new claim into consideration, as well as claim 21.

It should be noted that the elected specie is not limited to a particular mode of flange orientation on the ribbon nor the requirement that a recess be formed in the flange to accept a portion of the ribbon. If the Examiner can substantiate that such orientation and/or integration actually establishes an examination burden or otherwise meets the criteria for supporting a restriction requirement there between, then applicant will respond accordingly. However, applicant submits, and without admitting or implying that the orientation does not establish patentably distinct species, that a restriction in such instance is not proper.

Applicant has also elected to amend the independent claims to include the limitation that the ribbon is derived from compressed wood. Insofar as no substantive examination

has taken place, applicant submits that the Examiner is not prejudiced by these amendments.

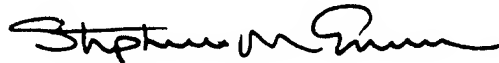
Insofar as applicant has added an additional dependent claim, the Examiner is authorized to deduct the small entity fee for this additional claim from Deposit Account No. 07-1897. Applicant submits that this response has not generated any additional claim fees. Should additional claim fees be required, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-1897. Should additional time be necessary in order for this response to be considered timely, please consider this communication as such supplemental petition and charge the additional fee to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

While every attempt has been made to provide a *bona fide* response to the referenced office action, if the Examiner finds this response deficient in any way, he is respectfully requested to contact applicant's attorney of record by telephone, at (425) 455-5575.

DATED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

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